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Housekeepers' Chat

Wed., Jan. 25/28

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "Getting the Most from Your Sewing Machine." Notes on sewing contributed by Maude Campbell, Ass't Specialist in Clothing, Bureau of Home Economics; menu and recipe from Bureau of Home Economics.

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As everybody knows, the way to get good advice on any subject is to go to the person who knows this subject thoroughly. That's why I asked Miss Campbell, of the Bureau of Home Economics, to jot down some practical notes for you on "Getting the Most from Your Sewing Machine."

"If you are to get the most from your sewing machine," says Miss Campbell, "it must be cared for, and used, like the complex and intricate piece of machinery that it is. As I have said before, be sure to keep your sewing machine well oiled. Clean off the old oil, occasionally, with kerosene, and oil the machine again. Use a kind of oil that does not leave a sticky substance on the oiled surfaces. This gummy, sticky deposit makes the machine run heavily, and sewing will never be a pleasure, if the machine runs hard.

"By all means, be sure your needle is sharp. A blunt needle causes damage in fine materials, and is far from pleasant to use.

"Again, I want to mention the attachments which are supplied with every sewing machine. Get acquainted with them, and see how much time they can save you. However, better not try to use an attachment for the first time, when you are in a hurry. Many women have done this, only to give up in despair, and never try again.

"Two valuable time-saving sewing machine attachments are the hemmer, and the binder. These are especially helpful when making house dresses, kitchen aprons, and children's clothes, of materials such as percale, and prints. These materials are easy to sew on, but before using the attachments, even on these, it is best to practice on scraps, so you can discover just the right way to guide the edges. Once you learn how to use the hemmer and binder, you will never go back to the old way of turning harrow hems, and binding long edges, by hand. Of course the hemmer and binder are not practical for short distances.

"There is another machine attachment which is not so popular as it used to be, in the days of fancy underwear. That is the tucker. However, the tucker is almost indispensable, when there is much work to be done, on materials which will crease easily. Any width tuck, up to one inch, can be made. The tucks can be made any distance apart, up to four inches. Of course, a few short tucks can be made more quickly without the tucker, by using a few simple measurements and the foot of the machine to gauge the width.



"Do you ever use the quilter? The quilter is a very simple device, for keeping rows of stitching parallel. You can make very pretty quilted pillow tops, and chair seat cushions, by using a long, moderately loose stitch. It doesn't take long to do this quilting, by machine.

"Another very effective machine decoration is made by winding the bobbin with a medium fine yarn, loosening the bobbin tension, and lengthening the stitch. This decoration resembles couching, and is quickly done. You might use rope silk, for stitching pin tucks on silk dresses. Yarn looks best on voile, or soft woolen materials. Several rows of this machine stitching, in harmonizing colors, make a very attractive tailored trimming for either silk or wool dresses. Different effects are produced by shortening the stitch, and tightening the tension. Several rows of this stitching, drawn up to form shirring on children's dresses, of voile or challis, make a good substitute for smocking.

"Let's see now -- what else can be done with a sewing machine. I suppose everybody knows how to gather, by using a moderately loose, long stitch, and by simply pulling up the bobbin thread, after stitching the edge to be gathered, with two rows of stitching. This method is more practical, for short distances, than using the gathering attachment. A nicer finish is made if two rows of stitching are used, made about one-fourth inch apart.

"We haven't mentioned the ruffler, which may be used for pleating, as well as for gathering. The braiding attachment is made for the purpose of using soutache braid in it, but yarn, rope silk, and other heavy threads may be used as well."

That concludes what Miss Campbell had to say about getting the most from your sewing machine. I'll answer a couple of questions now, and broadcast a menu.

First question: "How can I remove a white spot, caused by moisture, from a piece of furniture?"

Answer: If the discoloration has gone deep into the finish of the wood, the only way to get rid of it is to remove all the varnish, down to the wood, and apply a new finish. Sometimes surface marks can be removed from furniture by repeated rubbing with a heavy woolen cloth, moistened with linseed oil, or furniture polish. Heating the cloth, and the oil, may help, but precautions should be taken against fire risk, for these materials are very inflammable,

Second question: "Please tell me the proper method of washing and drying wool sweaters."

Answer: Instead of giving these directions, which I have broadcast a number of times, I am sending you a copy of the Laundering bulletin. The bulletin is free, and contains information which every housewife will appreciate.





Now let's see about dinner. How would you like an Oyster and Vegetable Stew, today, with Cornbread? Sounds appetizing, doesn't it? Then for dessert, we might serve a delicate Blackberry Flummery.

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If you have a copy of the Radio Cookbook, you need/ listen to the recipes. If you do not have a Radio Cookbook, take pencil and paper, please.

First, the Oyster and Vegetable Stew. Eight ingredients, for Oyster and Vegetable Stew:

1 quart oysters	1 small onion, chopped fine.
1 cup water	1 cup celery, chopped fine.
1/2 cup raw turnip, chopped	4 tablespoons butter, and
2 cups shredded raw cabbage	1 teaspoon salt

Eight ingredients. Check them, please: (Repeat ingredients)

Boil the turnip in the water for 5 minutes. Then add the shredded cabbage and the chopped onion. Cook for 10 minutes. Add the oysters, salt, and butter. Cook for a few minutes until the oysters curl at the edge. Add the celery just before serving. A little thickening may be used if desired, for the liquor comes out of the oysters as they cook.

Next, the Blackberry Flummery recipe. Five ingredients, for Blackberry Flummery:

2 cups blackberry juice, from canned or cooked blackberries.	1/4 teaspoon salt, and
1/2 cup sugar, if juice is unsweetened	2 teaspoons lemon juice.
3 tablespoons farina, or 4 tablespoons cornstarch	

Five ingredients, for Blackberry Flummery: (Repeat).

Heat the blackberry juice. Mix the sugar and the farina or cornstarch and the salt, and add to the blackberry juice. Cook in a double boiler for 15 or 20 minutes, or until the mixture thickens and the raw starchy taste disappears. Remove from the stove, add the lemon juice, and beat well. Serve the flummery cold with plain or whipped cream.

To repeat the menu: Oyster and Vegetable Stew; Cornbread; and Blackberry Flummery.

